

**TOWN COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
MAY 7, 2002**

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. Present were Mayor Venis, Vice-Mayor Clark, Councilmembers Paul, Starkey, and Truex. Also present were Town Administrator Willi, Town Attorney Kiar, and Town Clerk Muniz recording the meeting.

**2002-2003 Budget**

Police Chief John George submitted his projected goals and explained that the list was a draft, but would provide Council with a general idea of the staffing needs of the Police Department. He advised that 36 positions were being asked for and explained the formula used to provide adequate coverage throughout the Town.

Vice-Mayor Clark asked if the school resource officers would provide traffic control. Chief George explained that they would after school hours, but basically they would be assigned to the schools full time.

Mayor Venis asked if all the police service aides and police officer positions that were budgeted for in the past 18 months were filled. Chief George indicated that the Department was fully staffed until April 1st, which "opened up" the three lieutenant positions. He clarified that all positions were currently filled.

Vice-Mayor Clark asked how many motorcycle officers there were. Chief George indicated that there were presently eight and an additional six were being requested. He stated that if this proposal was passed, it would take one year to fill all the positions.

Councilmember Paul indicated that the Town generated approximately \$500,000 in ticket revenues per year. She reviewed the number of citations written by the various types of officers and indicated that motorcycle officers wrote more tickets than "zone" officers. Chief George explained that motorcycle officers were specialists in traffic homicide investigations, their response time was quicker, and they were more flexible.

Councilmember Truex asked how many school resource officers there were with Chief George responding that there were five. He explained the duties of school resource officers and how important these positions were. Councilmember Truex felt that the school resource officers should be hired over a period of years, rather than in one year. Councilmember Paul felt that this was one of her top priorities. Councilmember Starkey agreed that police presence in the school was critical.

Mayor Venis asked Council how it felt about increasing fire and police personnel. The consensus of Council was to increase personnel as public safety was important.

Parks and Recreation Director Dennis Andresky indicated that additional personnel were needed for the PAL facility and supplemental positions were needed for the Betty Booth Roberts Park pool, which was due to open August 2002. He stated that it was possible that an additional part time "sports" person might be needed if the sports program continued to grow, especially with the availability of the Nova High School and Western High School fields. Mr. Andresky indicated that an additional fitness person might be needed at the aquatic/fitness center at Pine Island Park, to assist with the weight training and fitness equipment. He also indicated that additional security might be needed at the Davie Pine Island Park, especially in light of recent automobile break-ins during the week.

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
MAY 7, 2002

Mayor Venis asked Assistant Town Administrator Ken Cohen how the supplemental process was progressing. Mr. Cohen indicated that this was being worked on and should be ready by June 15, 2002. He indicated that the supplemental budget would be approximately \$200,000. Mayor Venis asked about the revenues. Mr. Cohen felt the revenues would be about the same as last year. He stated that there would probably be zero increases in operating costs and no personnel would be hired until the bottom line was determined. Mayor Venis asked if Mr. Cohen had spoken with the Town's auditors regarding completing the supplemental budget earlier. Mr. Cohen indicated that the auditor's were almost done and Acting Budget and Finance Director Carole Menke was attempting to keep the supplemental figures conservative.

Mayor Venis indicated that there was a different auditor for the pension fund than for the Town and this was the cause of delays. He asked Mr. Cohen to discuss this with the Pension Boards to see if they would be willing to use the same auditor as the Town. Mr. Cohen agreed and stated that the only way to have the budget completed in a timely manner was to have the same auditing firm for both the Town and the pension firm. He indicated that the Town paid for both services. Mayor Venis indicated that the delay negatively affected the police department as well as the Town, especially where hiring was concerned. He asked that Council be added to the Pension Board's next agenda.

Councilmember Paul indicated that she would like to see a landscape architect hired. She also wanted to see more personnel in Code Compliance who would be available after hours and on weekends. Code Compliance Supervisor Daniel Stallone indicated that Code Compliance Inspectors currently worked until 8:30 p.m., but they did not work on weekends. He advised that three of the Inspectors were being trained in landscape inspections so that they could identify problems. Mr. Stallone stated that he was hoping to provide training for officers in wildlife "protections."

Mr. Willi indicated there were problems with Southwest Ranches and adjustment to their fee schedule were being made to offset additional costs. Mr. Stallone indicated that one Inspector was dedicated full time to working in Southwest Ranches because there were many complaints and a great deal of paperwork. He stated that this would be addressed in the next contract with Southwest Ranches.

Vice-Mayor Clark felt that if Southwest Ranches needed a fulltime Code Compliance Inspector, they should hire one. Mr. Stallone indicated that this did not seem to be part of their plan. Discussion followed regarding the various options Southwest Ranches had regarding Code Compliance. Vice-Mayor Clark indicated that the Town had fought for three additional Code Compliance Inspectors because there was a need and she felt it was more important to serve the Town than it was to have a contract with Southwest Ranches.

Councilmember Paul spoke of monies that were needed for the entire preservation process that would include consultants for the Zoning in Progress. She felt the Town should pursue some of the suggestions Craig Stevens had discussed, including land acquisitions and stewardships. Councilmember Paul felt that money allocated for the acquisition of open space was somewhat under funded. She stated that the Open Space Advisory Committee was willing

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
MAY 7, 2002

to spend money to purchase land for mitigation sites, especially in light of the fact that the money would be returned to the Open Space fund.

Councilmember Paul spoke of the necessity for a crossing light at the Old Davie School because of safety concerns for pedestrians and horse traffic. Councilmember Truex indicated that the larger problem was the need for access points for pedestrians and horses.

Councilmember Paul stated that there was a piece of land near Lange Park that should be considered for purchase by the Town.

Mr. Willi stated that staff was under the impression that the services of the land use attorney would be available beyond the Zoning in Progress deadline of July 3rd. Mayor Venis inquired what the land use attorney would be used for. Mr. Willi indicated that staff would like to budget for this retainer and explained that services to be provided would include rezonings and technical matters with quasi-judicial items. Mayor Venis inquired if the attorney would make appearances before the Council with Mr. Willi indicating that he would appear at Council's request.

Director of Development Services Mark Kutney stated that the expertise of a Land use attorney would be quite valuable after the deadline for the Zoning in Progress deadline. Mayor Venis asked if the Land use attorney's services would be used for special projects and Mr. Kutney replied affirmatively. Councilmember Truex stated that some of the cost would be recovered through the cost recovery program. He asked if it was true that the cost recovery ordinance was being revised by the Budget Advisory Committee. Mr. Willi stated that revisions to the ordinance were being done by staff and the Committee was working on the fee schedule. Councilmember Starkey indicated that she was upset that the Committee was addressing the cost recovery ordinance when they were specifically directed by Council not to do so. She stated that the Committee should be dealing with the "deposit and how that would be on an accounting basis", not with ordinances.

Mayor Venis asked Mr. Kutney about his request at the last Council meeting to have legal representation during quasi-judicial items, and asked for clarification that the Land use attorney would not be acting in that capacity. Mr. Kutney clarified that the attorney would be available for controversial issues that might be challenged, but it would not be necessary for him to be present for every single matter coming before Council. Mayor Venis indicated that he would be in favor of retaining special counsel for certain projects; however, Council was not in favor the last time this was discussed because Mr. Kiar was available to staff for all legal issues and consultations. He felt that this would pit the Development Services Department against the Town Attorney if there was a difference.

Councilmember Paul indicated that a legal opinion was sometimes needed and items had to be tabled because Mr. Kiar had to research the issue. She felt in these cases, it would be beneficial to have an expert attorney because many delays would be eliminated.

Councilmember Truex outlined his goals, which included public safety and cutting the ad valorem tax rate as priorities. He felt that a voter approved bond issue might be necessary to increase public safety personnel. Councilmember Truex stated that his other priorities were the trail system, historical preservation including the agricultural history of the Town, annexation of Waldrep Dairy, annexation of United Ranches and completion of the economic analysis. He

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
MAY 7, 2002

wanted to see the Town become a leader in water conservation issues by creating drought resistant native landscaping areas and eliminating the use of sprinkler systems whenever

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
MAY 7, 2002

possible. Councilmember Truex felt that passive neighborhood parks, traffic solutions, Cost Recovery, and incentives for small businesses should also be addressed in the budget. He indicated that he wanted to see the Community Redevelopment Agency direct more efforts toward attracting small businesses rather than reinvent the downtown area with big projects. He felt the downtown area should be friendlier for professional students and the university community, by loosening restrictions. Councilmember Truex indicated that he also wanted to see the Community Redevelopment Agency contribute to infrastructure, including a much-needed firehouse. Finally, he wanted to see completion of the truck stop.

Councilmember Starkey felt that the Wetlands Mitigation Bank and land preservation were priorities for the Town. There were concerns that Council did not appear in front of the Land Preservation Board and she felt that Council should have been better notified. Mr. Willi stated that Council was notified six to eight weeks prior to the meeting and was also reminded the day before the meeting.

Mayor Venis indicated that he would like to see some finalization on the Sunrise water system. He felt the Town should determine whether or not the Sunrise system should be purchased. Mr. Willi felt that a workshop meeting could be held after staff individually met with Council to refresh them on the latest findings regarding the Sunrise water system. Mr. Willi felt that public discussion should be limited until Council was fully apprised of the situation.

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor/Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk